

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

ACDA-07 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 IOE-00 /149 W

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P R 231252Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4264

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USUN NEW YORK 743

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 OSLO 3785

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, US, NO

SUBJECT: NORWAY'S ROLE IN MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS

REF: (A) STATE 159747 (B) STATE 148782

SUMMARY: NORWAY'S NATIONAL INTEREST IN THE AFFAIRS OF

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UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAS LED IT TO PLAY A ROLE IN
MILTILATERAL AFFAIRS SOMEWHAT GREATER THAN ITS SIZE WOULD
SEEM TO JUSTIFY. IN RECOGNITION OF THIS, THE GON HAS
TENDED TO AVOID POLITICAL ISSUES IN THE PAST AND DEVOTE
ITS ENERGIES AND RESOURCES TO ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.
DURING THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND'S
PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE HAS SEEN

THE GON SPEAK OUT MORE ON ISSUES SUCH AS SOUTH AFRICA, HUMAN RIGHTS, WORLD DISARMAMENT, AND UN RESTRUCTURING. THE GREATER ACTIVITY HAS STRAINED NORWEGIAN BUREAUCRATIC SUPPORT CAPABILITIES TO THE POINT WHERE THEY ARE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING REORDERING AND INCREASING THE MFA'S IO STAFF. CONSULTATIONS, SUCH AS THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED AUGUST 18 VISIT OF AMBASSADOR MCHENRY, BECOME DOUBLY IMPORTANT, THEREFORE. THE QUESTION OF NORWAY AND AMERICA'S MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY IS NOT ONE OF DIFFERING SUBSTANTIVE POSITIONS, BUT ONE OF HOW BEST TO HARNESS NORWAY'S LIMITED BUT EXCELLENT RESOURCES TO OUR POLICY CART. END SUMMARY.

1. INTRODUCTION: NORWAY HAS TRADITIONALLY TAKEN AN ACTIVE PART IN UN ORGAIZATIONS, PARTICULARLY THOSE DEALING WITH SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC QUESTIONS. THIS INTEREST REFLECTS A STRONGLY HELD HUMANITARIAN CONCERN FOR THE PORBLEMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS WELL AS SOMETHING APPROACHING A SENSE OF GUILT IN REGARD TO THE EXTRAORDINARY WEALTH WHICH HAS COME ITS WAY. NORWAY HAS DESIGNED AN AID PROGRAM WHICH WILL, BY CY-77, DEVOTE APPROXIMATELY ONE PERCENT OF THE COUNTRY'S GNP TO FOREIGN ASSISTANCE (THIS GOAL WAS NEARLY MET IN CY-76 WHEN 0.7 OR ABOUT \$229 MILLION WAS SPENT). ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS NORWAY HAS PURSUED A SELF-ASSIGNED ROLE AS A BRIDGE BUILDER IN WORLD AFFAIRS. NORWAY'S WEALTH PLUS ITS KEEN INTEREST IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THE COMPETENCE OF ITS BUREAUCRACY
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HAVE, OVER THE PAST 10-15 YEARS, GIVEN IT AN INFLUENCE OUT OF PROPORTION TO ITS SIZE.

2. NORWAY SUPPORTS TO A GREATER EXTENT THAN DO MANY COUNTRIES THE ASPIRATIONS OF DEVELOPING STATES AS ARTICULATED IN THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ORDER AND IN THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES. NORWAY IS ALSO ATTEMPTING TO PLAY A MUCH LARGER ROLE IN BLACK AFRICA. PRIME MINISTER NORDLI, FOR EXAMPLE, IS ADDRESSING THE AUGUST 26 ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE IN LAGOS. NORWAY'S DCM AT THE UN, TOM VRAALSEN, IS CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24 AND HAS BEEN A VERY ACTIVE AND HELPFUL FRIEND TO THE UNITED STATES. HOWEVER, AS MULTINATIONAL ISSUES HAVE BECOME MORE HIGHLY CHARGED AND MORE POLITICAL-- RHODESIA, NAMIBIA--FAST MOVING AND COMPLEX, NORWAY HAS BEGUN TO FLOUNDER A LITTLE AND SENSES THE INADEQUACY OF ITS SMALL AND DECENTRALIZED BUREAUCRATIC INSTITUTIONS. THUS, CONSULTATIONS SUCH AS AMBASSADOR MCHENRY'S AUGUST 18 VISIT (OSLO 3774) TAKE ON AN ADDED IMPORTANCE FOR THE GON AND FOR THE USG.

3. NORWEGIAN NATIONAL ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE ON

SEPTEMBER 12. THE LABOR PARTY, WHICH HAS RULED FOR MOST OF THE LAST 30 YEARS, FACES A STRONG CHALLENGE FROM THE RIGHT. HOWEVER, EVEN WERE THE MINORITY LABOR GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS GOVERNED THE COUNTRY WITH THE HELP OF THE CENTRIST PARTIES AND THE LEFT SOCIALISTS, TO GIVE WAY TO CONSERVATIVE MANAGEMENT, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE NEW REGIME WOULD EFFECT ANY CHANGE IN NORWAY'S PRESENT APPROACH TO MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY SUPPORTIVE OF ALL MAJOR AMERICAN GOALS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA AND THE THIRD WORLD. A NEW FOREIGN MINISTER NOT SO PERSONALLY COMMITTED TO NORWAY'S VOICE IN THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE MIGHT BE LESS ACTIVE THAN KNUT FRYDENLUND BUT THE SAME IMPULSES, IF NOT PASSION, WOULD BE THERE.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 OSLO 3785

4. THE ISSUES

A. SOUTH AFRICA: PRIME MINISTER NORDLI IS IN LAGOS THIS WEEK TO DELIVER A MAJOR SPEECH AT THE AUGUST 26 ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE. HIS PRESENTATION HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY A FOREIGN MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVE AS THE INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER TO NORWAY'S NEXT PHASE OF MULTILATERAL ACTIVITIES. CONFIDENTIAL

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IN HIS SPEECH NORDLI, WHO EXPECTS TO TALK ON BEHALF OF OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES REPRESENTED, WILL PUSH FOR APPLYING MORE PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA THROUGH MESURES SUCH AS A MANDATORY ARMS EMBARGO, GOODS EMBARGO, ETC. HE WILL POINT OUT THAT NORWAY FOR ITS PART HAS STOPPED GIVING LICENSES FOR INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA.

B. HUMAN RIGHTS: NORWAY BELIEVES THAT THE BEST APPROACH IT CAN TAKE IN DEALING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS IS IN TERMS OF HUMAN DIGNITY. THE GON HAS BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE PRESIDENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS STANCE AND HAS EXPRESSED ITS UNDERSTANDING FOR THE ROLE AMBASSADOR YOUNG IS PLAYING. THEY FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT THE USG IS COUCHING ITS INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR BLACK AFRICA IN QUASI-LEGAL RIGHTS TERMS THAT ARE FAMILIAR AND THUS MORE ACCEPTABLE TO MORE AMERICANS. WHILE THIS IS A USEFUL APPROACH FOR WASHINGTON, THE GON TENDS TO THINK A MORE GENERALIZED THEME SUCH AS HUMAN DIGNITY BETTER FITS NORWAY'S ROLE.

C. DISARMAMENT/ARMS CONTROL: THE GON BELIEVES THAT THESE ISSUES WILL BE IMPORTANT TO UN DEBATE IN THE COMING YEAR ALTHOUGH SOME MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE EXPRESSED DOUBT AS TO HOW MUCH IN FACT CAN BE DONE CONSIDERING THE UNCERTAIN STATE OF SALT AND THE INTRODUCTION OF A NEW GENERATION OF WEAPONS SUCH AS THE CRUISE MISSILE AND THE NEUTRON BOMB. NORWAY PARTICIPATES IN THE UN DISARMAMENT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE AND IN 1976 APPOINTED A SPECIAL AMBASSADOR, OSKAR VAERNO, AS ITS REPRESENTATIVE.

D. RESTRUCURING OF UN AGENCIES: WHILE NORWAY PERCEIVES THE DANGER OF CREEPING POLITICIZATION IN THE SPECIALIZED UN AGENCIES AND THUS STRONGLY SUPPORTS OUR DESIRE TO RESTRUCTURE THEM, THE GON SIMPLY DOES NOT HAVE MANPOWER SUFFICIENT TO STUDY THE ISSUES AND INSTRUCT THE DELEGATIONS. THEY ARE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE MORE ACTIVELY TO THE DELIBERATIONS AND CAMPAIGN AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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LABOR ORGANIZATION BECAUSE THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE WHO CAN HANDLE THE SUBSTANCE.

THE KEYMAN ON RESTRUCTURING IN THE GON IS MARTIN HUSLID, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE MFA AND HEAD OF THE POLICY PLANS OFFICE.

E. NORDIC COOPERATION: THE FIVE NORDIC COUNTRIES MAKE AN ATTEMPT TO WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER BOTH BEFORE AND DURING THE UNGA IN AN EFFORT TO COORDINATE MAJPR POLICY LINES. IN FACT, THEIR VOTING RECORDS OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS HAVE BEEN MUCH THE SAME. INSTRUCTIONS TO EACH COUNTRY'S DELEGATION ARE NOT COORDINATED, HOWEVER. MOREOVER, DIFFERENCES IN PACE AND APPROACH DO EXIST: DENMARK, FOR INSTANCE, AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMON MARKET, COULD HAVE PROBLEMS WITH SOUTH AFRICAN INITIATIVES WHICH THE OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES DO NOT. NORWAY VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE "PROGRAM OF ACTION" FOR SOUTH AFRICA WHILE HER NORTHERN NEIGHBORS DID NOT. NORWAY, BECAUSE OF A STRONG (BUT RECENTLY WEAKENING) PRO-ISRAEL POLITICAL FACTION TENDS TO BE THE MORE CONSERVATIVE ON MIDDLE EAST INITIATIVES. (THE CHRISTIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY--NORWAY'S THIRD LARGEST--CAREFULLY REVIEWS EACH JOT AND TITLE IN UN MIDDLE EASTERN RESOLUTIONS AND NOTES HOW THE NORWEGIAN DELEGATION VOTED.)

F. GON ORGANIZATION IN SUPPORT OF MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY: FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND IS ATTEMPTING TO STRENGTHEN THE OSLO SUPPORT FOR NORWAY'S MULTILATERAL DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS. AT THE MOMENT, ALMOST EVERYONE ADMITS IT IS TOTALLY INADEQUATE BOTH IN SIZE AND ORGANIZATION. ONE OVERWORKED MIDDLE LEVEL FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER IN THE MFA'S OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION IS ATTEMPTING TO COORDINATE THE GON'S ENTIRE MULTILATERAL OPERATION TO INCLUDE THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRESENT APPEARANCE AT THE LAGOS ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE. HE MUST COORDINATE WITH A SEPARATE OFFICE IN THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY WHICH HANDLES THE ILO AND REFUGEE ISSUES, WITH THE MFA CULTURAL DEPARTMENT, INTERNATIONAL TRADE DEPARTMENT, AND THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY'S ENERGY OFFICE FOR EACH

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OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS. FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND IS ATTEMPTING TO BEEF UP THE MFA'S INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OFFICE AND TO BRING WITHIN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY PEOPLE WHO CAN HANDLE THE SUBJECTS WHICH REQUIRE SOME EXPERTISE. THE DIFFICULTY IS THAT THE FINANCE MINISTRY IS OBJECTING TO FUNDING ADDITIONAL SLOTS AND EVEN TO FUNDING MORE NORWEGIAN PARTICIPANTS IN INTERNATIONAL DELEGATIONS.

5. OUTLOOK: AT THE FORTHCOMING UNGA WE LOOK FOR NORWAY TO CONTINUE TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE, AND, TO THE EXTENT THE LIMITED GON RESOURCES ALLOW, WIDE RANGING ROLE. THE GON CAN BE EXPECTED TO SUPPORT USG POSITIONS ON MOST MAJOR ISSUES.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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SAS ID: 1516922
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORWAY'S ROLE IN MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS
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To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/10f56856-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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